

What are Your Voting Rights in Iowa?

- Voters who are eighteen years old and registered to vote in Iowa have the right to vote in Iowa elections.
- Voters may be asked to show an ID to vote on Election Day but an ID is not required to vote. If voters choose to register to vote on Election Day, they must prove who they are and that they live in the precinct they are voting in.
- Voters have the right to vote a provisional ballot if their eligibility to vote is questioned.
- Voters who go to the wrong precinct to vote must be given their correct precinct location by precinct poll workers.
- Voters have the right to vote by themselves or with help. Voters may choose who helps them, but it cannot be their employer or an officer of their union.
- Voters with a conservator or guardian have the right to vote unless a judge has specifically said in a court ruling they may not.
- Voters have the right to vote the way they choose.
- Voters have the right to get help by calling the number below if someone tries to stop them from voting.
- Voters have the right to be shown how to make their choices on the ballot.
- Voters waiting in line when the polling site closes must be allowed to vote.

The more people with disabilities and diverse communities who vote,
the stronger our voices will be.

**Encourage three to five other Iowans
with disabilities or from a minority community
to vote too.**

For questions, or to report a violation
of your voting rights, contact

The Iowa Secretary of State at (888)767-8683
or visit www.sos.iowa.gov

For more information please contact:



Iowa Disability Vote Coalition
www.idaction.org/vote
(866)432-2846
contactus@idaction.org



**Iowa Department of
Human Rights**
Office of Asian and Pacific
Islander Affairs
(515)281-4219

*Iowans with Disabilities in Action (ID Action) is
a nonpartisan, statewide initiative dedicated to
generating greater civic and political participation
among people with disabilities.*

*Translation of these materials is made possible
by the generous contributions of ID Action.*

Vote



Who can vote in Iowa?

Only registered voters can vote.
You can register to vote if:

1. You are a citizen of the United States.
2. You are a resident of Iowa.
3. You are at least 17 ½ years old (you must be 18 to vote).
4. You have not had your right to vote taken away because you have been convicted of a felony and your rights have not yet been restored.
5. You have not had your right to vote taken away because a court declared you “mentally incompetent to vote.” (Having a court-appointed guardian does not automatically take away your right to vote.)



How do I register to vote?

There are many ways to register to vote in Iowa:

Registration By Mail or Online

To register, you must fill out a voter registration application and send it to your county auditor or complete the online application. You can get a voter registration application from any of these locations:

1. Your county auditor’s office, usually located in your county’s courthouse.
2. The office of the Iowa Secretary of State (www.sos.iowa.gov). You will find the option to either print and mail in a paper application or you can complete the online application.
3. Iowa driver’s license stations.
4. Public assistance agencies such as local DHS offices and the Iowa Department of Human Rights.
5. State offices that serve people with disabilities.

Remember that if you move you will need to fill out a new voter registration form to be eligible to vote.

Election Day Registration

Iowa residents may now register to vote at the polls on Election Day. Voters wishing to do so must provide proof of their identity and residency. A valid Iowa driver’s license or non-operator’s ID with the voter’s current address is the best form of ID. Other valid photo IDs that can be used to register on Election Day are listed below. The photo ID used must have an expiration date and cannot be expired.

- Iowa driver’s license
- Iowa non-driver ID
- US passport
- US military ID card
- ID card from an employer
- Iowa student ID
- Out-of-state driver’s license
- Out-of-state non-driver ID

If the photo ID used to register to vote on Election Day does not have the voter’s current address on it, the voter must show proof of residency with one of the following documents as long as it shows the voter’s name and the voter’s address in the precinct

- Residential lease
- Property tax statement
- Utility bill
- Bank statement
- Paycheck
- Government check
- Other government document

If the voter does not have documentation to prove identity or residency, the voter may have another registered voter in the precinct attest to the voter’s identity and residency.

How do I know where I go to vote on Election Day?

When you register to vote, you will receive a voter registration card. The name and address of your polling place—the place where you will go to vote— is listed on your registration card. You can also find your polling place by calling your county auditor or on the Iowa Secretary of State website (www.sos.iowa.gov).

How do I vote?

There are four different ways you can vote:

1. Election Day: You may vote in person at your polling place from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Election Day for Primary and General Elections. The polls are typically open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for other elections but this may change for some local elections so make sure you check before heading out. You can check times on the Iowa Secretary of State website (www.sos.iowa.gov).

2. Absentee Voting: You may vote by absentee ballot prior to the election. Absentee ballots provide voters with an easy way to vote when they are unable to go to the polls on Election Day. To vote by absentee ballot, you must request an absentee ballot by contacting your county auditor or by following the instructions at www.sos.iowa.gov/elections/electioninfo/absenteeinfo.html. Your request has to be received in the county auditor’s office by 5:00 p.m. the Friday before Election Day. The county auditor will then send you a ballot with instructions.

3. Early Voting: Each county auditor offers early voting before the election. In order to vote this way, you must go to your county auditor’s office during regular business hours. For Primary and General Elections, the county auditor’s office will also be open the two (2) Saturdays before the election.

4. Satellite Voting: Many county auditors set up other voting stations (called satellites) before Election Day in public places such as libraries. To find a satellite voting station near you, contact your county auditor’s office.

